

(Mr. CAMPBELL) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as co-sponsors of Senate Resolution 264, a resolution to designate October 8, 1998 as the Day of Concern About Young People and Gun Violence.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 116—CONCERNING THE NEW TRIBES MISSION HOSTAGE CRISIS

Mr. SPECTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 116

Whereas Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the Sanford, Florida, based New Tribes Mission were abducted on January 31, 1993, from the Kuna Indian village of Pucuro in the Darien Province of Panama;

Whereas the wives and children of these American citizens, Tania Rich (daughters—Tamra and Jessica), Nancy Mankins (son—Chad, daughter—Sarah), and Patti Tenenoff (son—Richard Lee III, daughters—Dora and Connie), have lived the past 5 years without knowledge of the safety of these 3 men;

Whereas Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff presently are believed to be the longest held United States hostages;

Whereas this kidnapping represents a gross violation of the 3 missionaries' human rights and is not an isolated incident in Colombia where, since 1980, 83 innocent Americans have been held hostage by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN);

Whereas the FARC and the ELN guerrilla groups in Colombia have both been designated terrorist organizations by the Department of State;

Whereas Colombia is engaged in a high-level conflict with these guerrilla insurgency groups, a number of whom are protectorates of the deadly drug trade;

Whereas the FARC has recently threatened officials of the United States Government and kidnapped additional United States citizens in Colombia;

Whereas the region of Colombia where the 3 American missionaries are believed to be held is controlled not by the Colombian Government, but rather by the FARC;

Whereas on December 9, 1997, the President of Colombia stated on an internationally televised episode of Larry King Live that the FARC "in some ways have admitted indirectly that they have the missionaries";

Whereas Human Rights Watch has stated that "The FARC has an obligation to unconditionally free the 3 missionaries, with all necessary guarantees" and Amnesty International has declared their "request that the FARC respect international humanitarian norms, guarantee the life and physical safety of the missionaries and unconditionally free them and all other hostages";

Whereas congressional inquiries regarding the 3 missionaries have been made to United States Government entities, including, the White House, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas congressional inquiries regarding the 3 missionaries have been made to Amnesty International, Pax Christi, His Holiness the Pope John Paul II, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has provided assurances that their Colombian delegation "is still actively working in favor of the missing members of the New Tribes Mission";

Whereas 58 Members of Congress and Senators signed letters to 8 different heads of state, including Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Spain, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia, and Portugal, in attendance at the Iberian-American Conference in Venezuela in November of 1997, requesting any and all assistance in order to bring about a favorable outcome to this unfortunate event;

Whereas no official confirmation of life or death has been made by any United States Government entity, nongovernmental organization, foreign government, or religious institution;

Whereas the distinction between a "terrorist activity" and a "criminal activity" perpetrated on an American citizen traveling abroad should not be a limiting factor in terms of United States governmental investigation; and

Whereas every consideration to safety and prudence regarding action by the United States Government, foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, international institutions, and other groups in this matter should be of the highest priority: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) the President of the United States and his emissaries should raise the kidnapping of Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the New Tribes Mission and other American victims in Colombia to all relevant foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations, and religious institutions at every opportunity until a favorable outcome is achieved;

(2) the President of the United States and the Secretary of State should offer reward money for information leading to the release of the named hostages;

(3) the President of the United States and his emissaries should urge the cooperation of the new President of Colombia to assist in the publication of the reward information;

(4) the international community should encourage any and all groups believed to have information on this case to come forward to help the families of the kidnapped missionaries;

(5) all appropriate information obtained by the United States Government, foreign governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and religious institutions should be turned over in a timely basis to the New Tribes Mission crisis response team;

(6) a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of Central Intelligence, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, the President of the United Mexican States, the President of the Republic of Panama, the King of Spain, the President of the Republic of Venezuela, the President of the Republic of Guatemala, the President of the Republic of Colombia, the President of the Republic of Portugal, and His Holiness Pope John Paul II; and

(7) a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the New Tribes Mission, Amnesty International, Pax Christi, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

• Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to submit a Resolution that seeks the President's assistance in recovering three Americans—Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff—who were abducted by the Colombian terrorists known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) on January 31, 1993, from the Kuna Indian village of Pucuro in the Darien Province of Panama.

I first became aware of this situation at a Lancaster County open house town meeting at the Lancaster City Council Chambers on February 9, 1998. At the meeting, Ms. Pegg Miller urged me to get involved in the situation. Also present at the meeting were Chester and Mary Bitterman. Mr. Bitterman stood and spoke passionately about his son, Chet Bitterman, III, who was a missionary translator with Wycliffe Bible. Chet Bitterman, III, was kidnapped in Bogota, Colombia, in January, 1981, held hostage for 48 days and then found brutally murdered by Colombian terrorists on March 7, 1981. Not only did Mr. and Mrs. Bitterman lose a son, but Chet left a wife and two very young daughters. A book entitled "Called to Die" written by Steve Estes describes the horrible situation. Upon the urging of these constituents, I met with New Tribes Mission, the State Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency to see what we could do about recovering these kidnapped men.

This resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that the President and his representatives should raise the issue of the kidnapping of Mark Rich, David Mankins, and Rick Tenenoff of the New Tribes Mission and other American victims in Colombia to all relevant foreign governments, non-governmental organizations, and religious institutions at every opportunity until a favorable outcome is achieved. The international community should encourage groups believed to have information on this case to come forward. The legislation urges that all the appropriate information obtained should be turned over in a timely basis to the New Tribes Mission crisis response team.

Most importantly, the resolution proposes that the President of the United States and the Secretary of State offer reward money for information leading to the release of Mark, David and Rick. President Clinton should also encourage the cooperation of newly-elected Colombian President Pastrana to assist in the publication of the reward information. Without cooperation between our two governments, we may never see the return of these men to their families in the United States.

There are indications that Mr. Rich, Mr. Mankins, and Mr. Tenenoff have been held in Colombia for over five years; therefore, they would be the longest held American hostages in Colombia. The United States government should do all it can to protect its citizens against terrorist acts; I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting adoption of this resolution. •

SENATE RESOLUTION 275—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT OCTOBER 11, 1998, SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS "NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY"

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. BURNS)